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CONTROLS

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 07 OF 10 KABUL: 00468

SP-7

MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS; PARIS ALSO FOR USDAO; DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR NEA/PAB, MR. BRUNO; THE HAGUE FOR A-DAM

Release

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

BODY

TS: PREL, MOPS, MCAP, PHUM, PINS, PINR, PROP, SREF,

IC, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT (FEBRUARY

REMOVAL OF SOVIET EQUIPMENT TO THE KABUL BLACK MARKET.

13. (U) HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS: SOME OF THE YOUTH LABOR CONTINGENT REPORTED IN THE LOCAL MEDIA AS HAVING RETURNED FROM KANDAHAR TO KABUL IN TIME TO BEGIN CLASSES AT KABUL UNIVERSITY RELATED THAT THEIR TWO-MONTH DETAIL HAD INVOLVED CONSTRUCTION OF A REGIME MILITARY BARRACKS AT KESHI JADID NEAR SPIN BULDAK. THE TEAM WAS THE FOURTH YOUTH BRIGADE ASSIGNED TO WORK ON THE PROJECT IN THE LAST EIGHT MONTHS. (NOTE: REGIME MEDIA TREATMENT OF THE CONSCRIPTED YOUTH TEAMS BEING SENT TO KANDAHAR HAVE NEVER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE YOUTH ARE BEING USED FOR MILITARY CONSTRUCTION WORK.)

19. (U) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: THERE ARE REPORTS THAT PICTURES OF THE FORMER KING HAVE BEEN SEEN IN SHOPS IN KANDAHAR AND IN KABUL'S KHAIR KHANA DISTRICT. AT A MAJOR RALLY STAGED IN CONNECTION WITH THE OPENING OF THE LATEST ROUND OF PROXIMITY TALKS IN GENEVA, OBSERVERS NOTED FOR THE FIRST TIME POSTER-SIZE PICTURES OF PRESIDENT NAJIBULLAH IN THE CROWD, WHICH COMPRISED REGIME AND PARTY CADRE.

20. (U) MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS:

A. AIR-TO-GROUND MISSILES FOR THE REGIME AIR FORCE: A DIPLOMAT WITH GOOD ACCESS TO INFORMATION FROM HERAT REPORTEDLY CLAIMED THAT ON FEBRUARY 29, 20 TRUCKLOADS OF AIR-TO-GROUND MISSILES (EACH TRUCK CARRIED 40 MISSILES) ARRIVED IN THE HERAT AREA FROM THE SOVIET BORDER AT TORGHUNDI. A SIMILAR SHIPMENT IS EXPECTED SOON FROM HAIRATAN TO THE KABUL AREA. BOTH SHIPMENTS REPORTEDLY ARE FOR THE REGIME AIR FORCE.

B. KHAD RECRUITMENT PROBLEMS: EFFORTS REPORTED EARLIER TO EXPAND THE MINISTRY OF STATE SECURITY (KHAD) ARMED FORCES CONTINUE TO BE STALLED BECAUSE OF POOR RECRUITMENT. A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT REPORTS THAT THE REGIME HAS DECIDED TO TRANSFER SOME ARMY PERSONNEL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED by Red DATE OCT 11 1988
☒ RELEASE ☒ DECLASSIFY
☐ EXCISE ☐ DECLASSIFY IN PART
☐ DENY ☐ Non-responsive info.
FOI, EO or PA exemptions _____
TS authority to: _____
☐ CLASSIFY as _____
☐ DOWNGRADE TS to () S or () C, OADR

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"TEMPORARILY" INTO KHAD FORCES TO MAKE UP THE PERSONNEL SHORTFALL. THE MOVEMENT IS NOT VOLUNTARY BUT IS COMPENSATED BY HIGHER SALARIES AND A BONUS TO THOSE TRANSFERING INTO KHAD SERVICE.

C MILITARY SALARIES A REPORT SOURCED TO AN AFGHAN CLAIMS THAT AT A SECRET MEETING EARLY IN THE WEEK A DECISION WAS TAKEN TO INCREASE THE SALARIES OF ARMY PERSONNEL, BUT NOT TO INCREASE SALARIES FOR KHAD OR SARANDOI. THE DECISION REPORTEDLY CAUSED DISSENSON IN THE RANKS OF THE KHAD AND SARANDOI.

2 (U) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS:

COMMODITY MARKET TRENDS: FEBRUARY COMMODITY PRICES WENT UP IN ALL CATEGORIES EXCEPT MEAT WHICH, FOLLOWING UNPRECEDENTED RISES IN JANUARY, FELL BACK SLIGHTLY IN FEBRUARY. LEADING THE FEBRUARY PRICE RISE WERE VEGETABLES, UP 24 PERCENT OVER JANUARY PRICES. FUELS WERE UP NINE PERCENT. MEASURED AGAINST FEBRUARY 1987 PRICES, PRICES THIS FEBRUARY WERE UP ON AVERAGE 40 PERCENT, LED BY RISES IN MEAT (UP 64 PERCENT), DAIRY ADMIN
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